

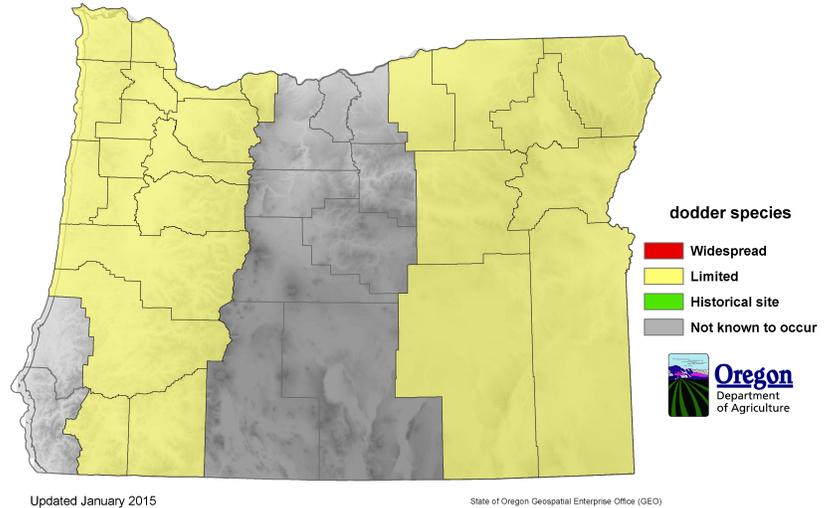
“B” Rated Weeds

A weed of economic importance which is regionally abundant,
but may have limited distribution in some counties

Dodder
Cuscuta spp.

Other common names: Beggarweed, strangle tare, scaldweed, devils guts, strangleweed, hairweed, goldthread, witches' shoelaces, hailplant, love vine, angel's hair, pull down, hell bind, tangle gut

USDA symbol: CUSCU
ODA rating: B



Introduction: Non-native dodders are widely distributed over much of North America with 3 distinct weedy species present in the Pacific Northwest. The *Cuscuta* genus is composed of approximately 170 species, all of which are parasitic attacking a wide range of host plants. They all look very similar but differ in their geographic distribution and also in their host preferences.

Distribution in Oregon: Dodder occurs throughout Oregon with many historical sites appearing in Northwest Oregon. Advances in herbicide chemistry have seriously reduced the occurrence of dodder in cropping systems and right of ways.

Description: Dodders are annual-sprouting parasitic plants. They flower from July to October. Stems are yellowish, thread-like and twining. Leaves are reduced to thread-like scales. Flowers are very small, white to pink, numerous, shallow-cupped, and grow in compact clusters. They are easily recognized by their thickly intertwining bright yellow to orange-yellow growth.

Impacts: Our three species of non-native dodder are parasitic on agricultural crops impacting harvest and yield. By debilitating the host plant, dodder decreases the ability of plants to resist viral diseases, and can also spread plant diseases from one host to another if attached to more than one plant. It also is an alternate host for beet yellows, cucumber mosaic, and tobacco etch viruses. There are native species of dodder that create no economic harm.

Biological controls: There are no approved biological control agents available.

